

we invite answers from brethren Cassel, D. C. Moomaw, J. W. Beer, Z. T. Liven-good, J. L. Gillin and others. The answers will be published in "Our Bible School" department, but please observe that none will be printed containing above two hundred words.

THE weather is warm, exceedingly warm, almost hot, and as a brother writes it is "hard" on babies and on lukewarm Christians. One would think that such weather as this would be sufficient to make all Christians "hot" just as the apostle would like to have them; but, strange to say, the extremely hot weather seems to have a tendency to make church members "cold." These are mysterious things. Hot makes cold and cold makes hot. It is a strange world—this world in which we live. The Christian life is a series of paradoxes; we save life by losing it, and we lose life by saving it. Giving makes us rich, and withholding more than is meet makes us poor. The man that has gets more; the man that has nothing shall have even that taken from him. Who can know the deep things of God?

#### OUR TRIP TO VIRGINIA.

The journey from Harper's Ferry up the Shenandoah Valley to New Market is a delightful one. For the first time it was our privilege to view this historic valley—the valley made famous during the Civil War as the scene of many a fierce conflict between the contending forces. It still bears the marks of that terrible struggle, and as one looks out over those beautiful acres, large fields waving white with the ripening grain, his heart is made sad at the thought that the fairest spots on God's earth should be turned into fields of carnage. Nature has been busy at work healing the wounds left by the ravages of war, and while here and there may be seen the marks of that awful struggle which turned this beautiful valley into a scene of desolation, yet Dame Nature has been graciously kind and merciful and has nobly done her part in turning this desolate battle field into beautiful farms, and thus largely removing those visible marks which bring to one's mind unpleasant memories and associations.

We arrived at New Market about nine o'clock in the morning and were conveyed to the home of Dr. Good and wife. The opening of the conference was programmed for 2 P. M., Tuesday, and before the time arrived we had a taste of that genuine hospitality which absolutely knows no bounds. To one from the north, with

the inherited prejudices of a past generation, the hospitality of these people is simply incredible. The Brethren church in New Market is represented by four families, namely: Fogle, Kagey, Lawrence and Good. And yet these people undertook to entertain the conference and they did it, did it well, notwithstanding the fact that a large crowd assembled. The people were fed and lodged free of charge. These people are on the style of Lydia of old—their hearts, minds, hands and houses are open. They have large hearts, large because occupied by the blessed Christ. May the Lord bless this dear people and ever keep them faithful.

It should be remembered that this spirit of hospitality is not confined to our own people; it is general. The whole town was turned into a home for us. They know no north, no south, east or west. Various denominations are represented in the town, but in spirit the people are all "Brethren," not in faith and doctrine, but in the wide sense of the term "brethren." At the home of Brother Lawrence we formed the acquaintance of two young ladies who showed us great kindness. They pointed out to us the battle field, the positions of the several armies, the hill from which the famous two hundred and fifty cadets (seventeen years of age) made their charge and won the day for the confederate army. We were pleasantly entertained and profitably also. These ladies, whose names we do not recall, will accept our thanks for their kindness. The Henkle Brothers, two young men in the printing business at New Market, gave us special attention. They belong to a noble family and have a noble lineage. Their father is an eminent divine; their grandfather, great-grandfather and so on back almost to the time of Luther were ministers. In their office stands a press 106 years old. On it the "Book of Concord" was first printed in English in this country, also the sermons of Martin Luther. It is a press with a history. The Henkle Brothers are the editors and publishers of the "Shenandoah Valley," also the publishers of a number of other papers and literature. Our association with them was of the most pleasant kind—on our part at least. They gave a very full report of the conference work, giving in detail the particulars of the meeting. It was thro them and Brother Fogle that we got to visit the famous Luray Cave, fourteen miles distant from New Market. We had it in mind to write "up" our visit to this cave, but the whole

thing beggars description and we will let it alone. We thank the Henkle Brothers for the attention they gave us. We should like to speak of the kindness of the Methodist people who opened their house for our use, and, tho we talked doctrine sometimes, yet the pastor was there regularly, taking part in the work, apparently much interested. There are others whose names deserve mention but time and space forbid. It afforded us much pleasure to meet and get acquainted with the brethren of Virginia and Maryland. For the first time we met Dr. Shaver and wife; Geo. A. Copp and father and mother, and a host of others whom we include in the list. Intelligence, earnestness, deep spirituality are characteristics of these people.

We would like to speak of the work of this conference, but other brethren have already reported and next week the minutes will be printed. Suffice it to say that in all the deliberations the spirit of Christ was plainly manifested and the utmost freedom prevailed. It was a good conference, spiritual, practical and helpful.

#### GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES.

The program appears on another page. The King's Children and S. S. C. E. programs are not included in this.

If the K. C. and S. S. C. E. societies are to have a day each, that is three sessions each then the conference can not in our judgment close on August 31. It will require all of September 1 to complete the work.

Those whose names appear on the program should come to the conference with well prepared papers on the subjects assigned them. Write and rewrite, boil down, prepare a paper that makes good literature for the Brethren church.

"Open Parliament," you know what that means; every subject will be open for general discussion and it is to be hoped that our people will give these topics careful thought and come prepared to discuss them intelligently. Thoughts, ideas, facts, these are what we want, not mere words.

There are quite a good many churches in Johnstown; it is a city of 39,000 people. There will be an opportunity for our ministers to preach in one or the other of these churches on Sabbath. Unless you belong to the fortunate ones who are always ready to preach, be sure that you make preparation for this occasion. You may be called upon to preach.

The program for Sabbath services will be arranged by the local committee of Johnstown and announced in due time. The S. S. C. E. program has already been